

Weekly Compilation of
**Presidential
Documents**



Monday, September 17, 2007
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Editor's Note: The President was at Camp David, MD, on September 14, the closing date of this issue. Releases and announcements issued by the Office of the Press Secretary but not received in time for inclusion in this issue will be printed next week.

WEEKLY COMPILATION OF

PRESIDENTIAL DOCUMENTS

Published every Monday by the Office of the Federal Register, National Archives and Records Administration, Washington, DC 20408, the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents* contains statements, messages, and other Presidential materials released by the White House during the preceding week.

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Week Ending Friday, September 14, 2007

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan
in Sydney, Australia**

September 8, 2007

President Bush. Shinzo, thank you for your time. I not only had breakfast with my friend; I just had a very constructive bilateral discussion on a variety of issues. We, of course, discussed concern about climate change, our regional concerns. We talked about energy security. We talked about Iran.

But mostly, I want to thank the Prime Minister, his Government, and the Japanese people for their contribution in the war against terror. The role that Japan plays in this fight is a vital role, and it's a necessary role. Japan provides a vital service not only to the United States but to other countries as a refueler of our ships. And I thank you for that, Mr. Prime Minister, and I thank the Japanese people for that as well.

The fact that we're in a war against extremists was heightened today by the release of a tape. The tape is a reminder about the dangerous world in which we live, and it is a reminder that we must work together to protect our people against these extremists who murder the innocent in order to achieve their political objectives.

I found it interesting that on the tape, Iraq was mentioned, which is a reminder that Iraq is a part of this war against extremists. If Al Qaida bothers to mention Iraq, it's because they want to achieve their objectives in Iraq, which is to drive us out and to develop a safe haven. And the reason they want a safe haven is to launch attacks against America or any other ally. And therefore, it's important that we show resolve and determination to protect ourselves, to deny Al Qaida safe haven, and to support young democracies, which will be a major defeat to their ambitions.

So, Mr. Prime Minister, thank you for being here. I'm proud to call you friend.

Prime Minister Abe. I'm very happy that we were able to have a very nice meeting today, George. Following on to the trilateral breakfast that we had among three countries, Japan, Australia, and the United States, together, the two of us were able to have a very useful or meaningful discussion on various areas, including the political, economic, and security and climate change—all these areas. And we agreed to further strengthen the irreplaceable alliance that we have between our two countries.

And Japan and the United States agreed to cooperate so that we can build an effective framework for addressing the problem of climate change. And we agreed the importance for the international community to be—stay united in the fight against terrorism, which is still ongoing. And we also agreed on the importance of the Japanese-American refueling operation in the Indian Ocean.

We not only agreed to strengthen our bilateral relationship as allies, but we also agreed to cooperate closely in attacking the various issues that faces the international community.

President Bush. Thank you, sir.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:15 a.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. Prime Minister Abe spoke in Japanese, and his remarks were translated by an interpreter.

**Remarks Following a Meeting With
President Susilo Bambang
Yudhoyono of Indonesia in Sydney**

September 8, 2007

President Bush. Mr. President, I admire your leadership; I admire your strength of character; and I appreciate our conversation today. First, I thank you very much for your strength in this struggle against extremism. You understand firsthand what it means to deal with radicalism, and you've done it in a very constructive way. On the one hand,

you've brought people to justice who deserved it; on the other hand, you've worked to improve the human condition.

And we're proud to stand with you on matters such as education. You've got a very constructive education reform package in your country that we believe will make a difference, and I thank you for that.

Today we discussed our bilateral relations and the importance of military-to-military relationship. I think it's important that officers in the Indonesian Army and the Indonesian military come to the United States. I think it's important for our military folks to interface with your officers. After all, Mr. President, if I remember correctly, you spent some time in Kansas. And I think it's in the country's interest that we interface with our friends, the Indonesians, in this way.

I want to thank you for your leadership on climate change. We had a good discussion on climate change. Interestingly enough, the President is in the lead when it comes to coral reef protection, and we want to help you. And you've also got an aggressive plan to stop deforestation. As a matter of fact, you're one of the leaders in the world when it comes to these practical applications of environmental quality and environmental progress. And the United States wants to help. We're working on a \$20 million initiative to help you on your preventing deforestation, and it's a good use of our taxpayers' money, particularly since we've got such a strong champion as you in the lead.

I also thank you very much for our discussion on Doha. Trade will help our respective Nations. And your Minister and I had a discussion yesterday, and I want to thank you for your leadership on this key issue.

All in all, Mr. President, I'm proud to be with you today, and I want to thank you for your time.

President Yudhoyono. Thank you, Mr. President. We have discuss a lot of things constructively, productively, this morning. I have to be thankful for your roles and leadership in fostering our bilateral friendships and cooperation.

Thank for your willingness to cooperate and assist Indonesia in managing our forests, in preserving our coral, and in other things in saving our planet with a framework of co-

operation—effective cooperation. And thank for that kind of support.

Thank also for our good cooperation in the field of education, and also, military-to-military cooperation is progressing well, that benefit both for the U.S. and for Indonesia.

And thank also for your understanding on the ongoing talk on the WTO. Indonesia, with other developing countries, will play a specific role, will approach this thing constructively, finding a proper solution good for both developed nation and developing countries. And once again, thank for this cooperation with your roles, and looking forward to having other action and cooperation between our two countries.

President Bush. Thank you, sir. Thank you, Mr. President.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:08 a.m. at the InterContinental Sydney. In his remarks, he referred to Minister of Foreign Affairs Noer Hassan Wirajuda of Indonesia.

The President's Radio Address

September 8, 2007

Good morning. Earlier this week, I traveled to Iraq's Anbar Province to visit our troops and see with my own eyes the remarkable changes they are making possible. If you want to see some photos from this trip, go to whitehouse.gov, where you can view a slideshow of my visit.

Success in Anbar is critical to the democratic future of Iraq and to the war on terror. This largely Sunni Province covers nearly a third of Iraq. It stretches from the outskirts of Baghdad to Iraq's borders with Jordan and Syria and Saudi Arabia. And until recently, Anbar was Al Qaida's chief base of operations in Iraq.

Last year at this time, Anbar was all over the news. Newspapers at the time cited a leaked intelligence report that was pessimistic about our prospects there. One columnist summed it up this way: "The war is over in Anbar Province, and the United States lost." But local citizens soon saw what life under Al Qaida meant for them. The terrorists brutalized the people of Anbar and killed those who opposed their dark ideology. So the tribal sheiks of Anbar came together

to fight Al Qaida. They asked for support from the coalition and the Iraqi Government, and we responded.

Together, we have driven Al Qaida out of strongholds in Anbar. The level of violence is down. Local governments are meeting again. Young Sunnis are joining the police and army. And normal life is returning. The people of Anbar have seen that standing up to the terrorists and extremists leads to a better life. And Anbar has shown that improving security is the first step toward achieving economic progress and political reconciliation.

On my visit, I met with tribal sheiks who have fought with us against Al Qaida and who are now building a better future for their people and for all Iraqis. One Sunni sheik told me, "We have suffered a great deal from terrorism. We strongly support the democracy you have called for. The previous regime [of Saddam Hussein] should not be characterized as a Sunni regime; it was a regime against the Sunnis, Shi'a, and the Kurds."

I also met with national leaders from Iraq's Government: President Talabani and Prime Minister Maliki, Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih, Vice President Abd Al-Mahdi, Vice President Hashimi, and President Barzani of the Kurdish region. These men come from different religious and ethnic backgrounds, but they all understand the importance of succeeding in Anbar. And so they're reaching out to help, with positive steps such as sharing oil revenues with Provincial leaders. I thanked the representatives of Iraq's Government for their efforts to support the bottom-up progress in Anbar. And I told them that the American people expect them to meet their commitments and pass the legislation they've agreed on.

While in Iraq, I also received a good briefing from General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker. They gave me an update on our military and political and economic efforts to support our Iraqi partners. They told me about the progress they're seeing across Iraq and their ideas for the way forward. In the next few days, they will come to Washington to give Congress their assessment of conditions on the ground. I urge the Members of Congress to listen to these two well-respected professionals before jumping to any conclusions.

Most importantly, during my visit, I met with our troops serving in Anbar. Every day, these fine men and women show courage under incredibly difficult circumstances. The work they're doing on the sands of Anbar is making us safer in the streets of America. Because of their bravery and sacrifice, our troops in Iraq are denying Al Qaida safe havens from which to plot and plan and carry out attacks against Americans both here and abroad. I know how hard it is for our men and women in uniform to be away from their families. I told them our Nation appreciates their willingness to serve and that the American people stand with them.

Next week, after consulting with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, my national security team, Members of Congress from both parties, and Iraqi leaders, I will speak directly to the Nation about the recommendations General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker have presented to me. I will discuss the changes our strategy has brought to Iraq. I will lay out a vision for future involvement in Iraq—one that I believe the American people and their elected leaders of both parties can support. By coming together on the way forward, we will strengthen Iraq's democracy, deal a blow to our enemies, secure interests in the Middle East, and make our Nation safer.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 6 p.m. on September 6 at the InterContinental Sydney in Sydney, Australia, for broadcast at 10:06 a.m., e.d.t., on September 8. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 7 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. Due to the 14-hour time difference, the radio address was broadcast after the President's remarks in Sydney, Australia. In his address, the President referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks Following a Visit With Wounded Troops and Their Families at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii *September 8, 2007*

The President. I appreciate the Governor of this beautiful State, Admiral Keating, his

wife, for their hospitality. The Secretary and I have just landed. We've come from Australia; we're on our way to DC. And I decided that it was best to stop and say hello to some of our wounded soldiers and sailors and marines.

Every time I have an opportunity to meet people who have sacrificed on behalf of the security of the country, I'm amazed at their spirit and their resolve. One of the things I look for is to make sure that these troops and their families are getting the best possible treatment. If they've got any complaints, I'm available for them to air them out.

And what I heard was encouraging; that people feel like they're getting the best possible care. And that makes me feel good. I told them, when I was in the room, that I came back from Iraq encouraged by what I saw. No question, there's still hard work to do, but my resolve is as strong as it's ever been. I believe we're doing the right thing there for the security of the country and for the peace of the world.

General David Petraeus will be reporting to the Congress, along with Ambassador Crocker, on Monday and Tuesday. I will then talk about a way forward after their report. I ask the Members of Congress to just sit back and listen to what we all have to say before they reach the conclusions that they're going to reach. But one thing is for certain: Now is the time to do the hard work in order to make sure that we can have a peaceful world; now is the time to deny the radicals and extremists a safe haven; and now is the time to advance democracy in the heart of the Middle East. I believe that's the calling of our time, and I believe we'll succeed. And I know it's necessary we do.

Anyway, thank you all for your hospitality.

Admiral Timothy J. Keating. Yes, sir.

The President. Admiral said he cooked some lunch for us today. I'm looking forward to having it.

Adm. Keating. Caught the fish and then cooked the lunch.

The President. Governor, proud to be with you.

Governor Linda Lingle of Hawaii. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. Thank you very much.

The First Lady

Q. Did you change any minds, Mr. President, with your trip?

Q. How is Mrs. Bush?

The President. She's doing great, thank you. I talked to Laura, talked to her twice. I talked to her right before she went in for the surgery, in Australia, and then talked to her twice on the airplane. Her spirits are good. They feel like the surgery was a success. She's now back at the White House. I told her I'm looking forward to having breakfast with her. I told her I'd be home soon. And I'm just grateful that the doctors did a good job, and I thank God for the fact that it came out well.

Q. Is she going to be released by the time you get home, sir?

The President. Yes, she's at the White House now.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:16 p.m. at the Tradewinds Enlisted Club. In his remarks, he referred to Adm. Timothy J. Keating, USN, commander, U.S. Pacific Command, and his wife, Wandalee; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq. A portion of these remarks could not be verified because the tape was incomplete.

Memorandum on Emergency Fund Drawdown To Support Assistance to Conflict Victims in Iraq, Lebanon, and Sri Lanka

September 8, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007-31

Memorandum for the Secretary of State

Subject: Emergency Fund Drawdown to Support Assistance to Conflict Victims in Iraq, Lebanon, and Sri Lanka

By the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including sections 2 and 4(a)(1) of the Migration and Refugee Assistance Act of 1962 (the "Act"), as amended (22 U.S.C. 2601 and 2603) and section 301 of title 3, United States Code:

(1) I hereby determine, pursuant to section 2(c)(1) of the Act, that it is important to the national interest to furnish assistance

under the Act, in an amount not to exceed \$24 million from the United States Emergency Refugee and Migration Assistance Fund, for the purpose of meeting unexpected and urgent refugee and migration needs, including contributions to international, governmental, and nongovernmental organizations, and payment of administrative expenses of the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration of the Department of State, related to: humanitarian needs resulting from conflicts in Iraq, Lebanon, and Sri Lanka.

(2) I hereby assign to you the functions of the President in relation to this memorandum under section 2(d) of the Act, and of establishing terms and conditions under section 2(c)(1) of the Act, and you may further assign such functions to any of your subordinates.

You are authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 14, 2007]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 10, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 17. This memorandum is printed as released by the Office of the Press Secretary and the Office of the Executive Clerk.

Memorandum on Assignment of Reporting Functions Relating to the Information Sharing Environment
September 8, 2007

Memorandum for the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and the Director of National Intelligence

Subject: Assignment of Reporting Functions Relating to the Information Sharing Environment

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and laws of the United States, including section 301 of title 3, United States Code, the reporting functions of the President under subsections (h) and (j) of

section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-458), as amended by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-53) (IRTPA), are hereby assigned to the Director of National Intelligence (Director). The Director shall consult the Secretaries of State, Defense, Energy, Homeland Security, and the Attorney General in performing such functions.

Heads of departments and agencies shall, to the extent permitted by law, furnish to the Director information that the Director requests to perform such functions, in the format and on the schedule specified by the Director.

The Director shall perform such functions in a manner consistent with the President's constitutional authority to withhold information the disclosure of which could impair foreign relations, national security, the deliberative processes of the Executive, and the performance of the Executive's constitutional duties.

Any reference in this memorandum to the provision of IRTPA shall be deemed to include references to any hereafter-enacted provision of law that is the same or substantially the same as such provision.

The Director is authorized and directed to publish this memorandum in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:52 a.m., September 11, 2007]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 10, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on September 12.

Remarks at a Swearing-In Ceremony for James A. Nussle as Director of the Office of Management and Budget
September 10, 2007

Thank you all. Please be seated. Thank you for joining us as I welcome the new Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Jim Nussle. I congratulate Jim. I thank him for agreeing to serve.

Public service is a family commitment. And I want to thank Karen, Sarah, and Mark and all the members of Jim's family for supporting him as he takes on this important duty.

I appreciate the Vice President being here to swear in the newest member of the Cabinet. I appreciate the members of my Cabinet for joining us. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here. I know Jim appreciates it.

I appreciate Paul Ryan, a Member of the House of Congress—a Member of Congress from Wisconsin and the ranking member of the House Budget Committee. He's here because he understands that the man I picked to run the OMB knows what he's doing.

The Director of OMB is one of the most important jobs in Government. It's a vital assignment. I picked a man who knows how to count—[laughter]—and knows how to work with Congress to get the job done.

This Agency oversees the broad range of operations essential to the day-to-day operations of the Federal Government. It requires a leader who believes in the people, who cares about the people of the United States. Jim is such a person. It also requires a leader who knows how to keep taxes low, because that's what we intend to do.

When it came time to search for a new OMB Director, it wasn't hard to find in Jim Nussle the kind of person I was looking for: somebody who can get a tough job done, and somebody who has a solid record of fiscal restraint. For 6 years, Jim served as chairman of the Budget Committee in the House of Representatives. He accomplished his tasks with a lot of skill. He was able to work with people from both parties and with the administration, I might add, handling the tough job. He understands that the Federal dollars don't come out of thin air. In other words, when we spend money up here, we're spending the people's money. He understands every dollar spent in Washington is a dollar that cannot be used by a small-business owner or a farmer or the families trying to save for their children's future.

It's our responsibility to ensure that we run our Government wisely and to spend the people's money wisely. Jim Nussle understands that. He also understands that cutting

taxes has helped our economy grow. We've overcome some tough times in America. When you lower taxes in the face of a recession or uncertainty, it enables people to have more money to spend, save, or invest. And the tax cuts that we passed have worked. The economy is—grew at over 3 percent the last quarter. Our national unemployment rate is 4.6 percent. Inflation is low. The best way to make sure our growth continues is not to raise the taxes on the people.

So we've submitted a budget that keeps taxes low and will enable us to achieve balance by 2012. And Jim Nussle understands this is a realistic budget. And I look forward to working with him to get our budgets passed through the United States Congress. I understand it's going to be tough work, Jim, because people up there want to raise taxes. We can't let them do so for the sake of our families, for the sake of economic vitality.

I appreciate very much the fact that he knows what I know, that the OMB has got some highly professional, hard-working people who are serving the country. And I thank the good folks who work at the Office of Management and Budget. I thank you for your service to the country. I'm looking forward to you getting to know Jim Nussle. He, like me, will appreciate what you're doing for the United States.

And so, Jim, I congratulate you on assuming this important position. I appreciate your family supporting you. And now I ask the Vice President to swear you in.

NOTE: The President spoke at 1:11 p.m. in Room 450 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of Director Nussle.

Remarks Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders

September 11, 2007

I thank the leadership of the Congress for joining us here to discuss the testimonies delivered by General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker. For some, this isn't the first moment they've been in the White House today, and I want to thank the leaders for joining Laura and me and the Vice President and

his wife, Lynne, as we commemorated the—a day that really helped—or it did define our Nation, which is 9/11/2001. We also had a church service earlier, and I thank particularly the Speaker and the leader for being there as well.

Secondly, all of us around this table are saddened by the loss of Congressman Paul Gillmor. Congressman Blunt has just come from his memorial service. All of us offer our prayers to the Gillmor family during this difficult time.

And finally, I've asked the leadership to come and share their thoughts about Iraq. As I mentioned, we've had a series of hearings where our commander on the ground and Ambassador in Iraq have talked about a way forward. I think it's very important before I make up my mind that I consult with the leaders of the House and the Senate. I thank the Members for coming and giving me their honest appraisal of whether they think we can find common ground or not and how they think we ought to proceed.

So thank you for coming; appreciate you being here.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3 p.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

Statement on the Death of Prime Minister John Compton of Saint Lucia

September 11, 2007

Laura and I offer our condolences to the people of Saint Lucia on the death of Prime Minister John Compton. The father of Saint Lucia's independence, Sir John was an elder statesman of the Caribbean. We will miss his vision and leadership, and we extend our deepest sympathies to his family.

Message on the Observance of Ramadan

September 7, 2007

I send greetings to Muslims observing Ramadan in America and around the world.

Ramadan, the holiest days of the Islamic faith, begins with the first light of dawn and commemorates the revelation of the Qur'an to the prophet Muhammad. During the days of fasting, prayer, and worship, Muslims reflect and remember their dependence on God. Ramadan is also an occasion for Muslims to strengthen family and community ties and share God's gifts with those in need.

America is a land of many faiths, and our society is enriched by our Muslim citizens. May the holy days of Ramadan remind us all to seek a culture of compassion and serve others in charity.

Laura and I send our best wishes. Ramadan Mubarak.

George W. Bush

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 12. An original was not available for verification of the content of this message.

Proclamation 8175—National Hispanic Heritage Month, 2007

September 12, 2007

*By the President of the United States
of America*

A Proclamation

Hispanic Americans have strengthened our country and contributed to the spirit of America. National Hispanic Heritage Month is an opportunity to honor these contributions and celebrate the rich cultural traditions of our Hispanic-American community.

Hispanic Americans have helped establish America as a place of freedom and opportunity, and their contributions have illustrated what is best about our great Nation. Their hard work, love of country, and deep commitment to faith and family have shaped the character of our country and helped preserve the values we all cherish. By sharing their vibrant culture and heritage, Hispanic Americans have also enriched the American experience and helped define the unique fabric of our Nation.

Americans of Hispanic heritage have carried on a proud tradition of service to our Nation. In times of great consequence, they have answered the call to defend America

as members of our Armed Forces. These brave men and women bring honor to America, and we are grateful for their service and sacrifice. In our towns and communities, Hispanic Americans have also shown the good heart of our Nation by volunteering to help their fellow Americans. Their kindness and compassion have made a difference in the lives of others and have made our country a more hopeful place for all.

During National Hispanic Heritage Month, we celebrate the diversity that makes America stronger, and we recognize the many ways Hispanic Americans have enriched our Nation. To honor the achievements of Hispanic Americans, the Congress, by Public Law 100-402, as amended, has authorized and requested the President to issue annually a proclamation designating September 15 through October 15 as "National Hispanic Heritage Month."

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 15 through October 15, 2007, as National Hispanic Heritage Month. I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:37 a.m., September 14, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 17. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language version of this proclamation.

Proclamation 8176—National Farm Safety and Health Week, 2007

September 12, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

America's farmers and ranchers are good stewards of our land, providing a healthy, safe, and abundant food supply for our country and for people around the world. During National Farm Safety and Health Week, we pay tribute to our farmers and ranchers and their families for their contributions to our Nation, and we raise awareness of the importance of practicing and promoting safe work habits and conditions on farms and ranches.

Making a living off the land exposes agricultural workers to many potential dangers, such as extreme weather conditions, fertilizers and chemicals, and heavy machinery. Taking steps to identify these hazards and instructing family members in safe practices will help save lives and prevent injuries. Farmers and ranchers can help avoid accidents and protect lives by staying informed, being proactive, and remaining vigilant.

Across the United States, farm and ranch communities embody the values of hard work, faith, and love of family. This week and throughout the year, we encourage farmers and ranchers to practice responsible work habits as they continue to help America remain strong and prosperous.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim September 16 through September 22, 2007, as National Farm Safety and Health Week. I call upon the agencies, organizations, and businesses that serve America's agricultural workers to continue to strengthen their commitment to promoting farm safety and health programs. I also urge all Americans to honor our agricultural heritage and to recognize our farmers and ranchers for their remarkable contributions to our Nation.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven,

and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9:37 a.m., September 14, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 17.

Executive Order 13444—Extending Privileges and Immunities to the African Union Mission to the United States

September 12, 2007

By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 7(a)(2) of the Department of State Authorities Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–472), I hereby extend to the African Union Mission to the United States of America, and to its members, the privileges and immunities enjoyed by diplomatic missions accredited to the United States, and by members of such missions, subject to corresponding conditions and obligations.

This extension of privileges and immunities is not intended to abridge in any respect privileges and immunities that the African Union Mission to the United States of America and its members otherwise may have acquired or may acquire by law.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 12, 2007.

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 9 a.m., September 13, 2007]

NOTE: This Executive order was published in the *Federal Register* on September 14.

Memorandum on Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

September 12, 2007

Memorandum for the Secretary of Homeland Security

Subject: Measures Regarding Certain Liberians in the United States

Since 1991, the United States has provided safe haven for Liberians who were forced to flee their country as a result of armed conflict and widespread civil strife. Eventually, many Liberians were granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and permitted to remain and obtain work eligibility in the United States temporarily. Although the armed conflict in Liberia ended in 2003 and conditions have improved, I have found that the political and economic situation in Liberia continues to be fragile.

While acknowledging the progress ongoing in Liberia under that country's current administration, I have determined that there are compelling foreign policy reasons not to enforce the removal of Liberians presently residing in the United States under TPS. In particular, Liberia is struggling to implement reconstruction and economic stabilization programs for the population, including the thousands of former Liberian refugees who have returned from the West African region and elsewhere.

Pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct the foreign relations of the United States, I have determined that it is in the foreign policy interest of the United States to defer for 18 months the removal of any Liberian national (or person without nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia) who is present in the United States and who is under a grant of TPS as of September 30, 2007, and who has continuously resided in the United States since October 1, 2002, except for the categories of individuals listed below.

Accordingly, I now direct you to take the necessary steps to implement for these Liberians:

1. deferral of enforced departure from the United States for 18 months from October 1, 2007; and

2. authorization for employment for 18 months from October 1, 2007.

This directive shall not apply to any Liberian national (or person without nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia): (1) who is ineligible for TPS for the reasons provided in section 244(c)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. 1254a(c)(2)(B); (2) whose removal you determine is in the interest of the United States; (3) whose presence or activities in the United States the Secretary of State has reasonable grounds to believe would have potentially serious adverse foreign policy consequences for the United States; (4) who has voluntarily returned to Liberia or his or her country of last habitual residence outside the United States; (5) who was deported, excluded, or removed prior to the date of this memorandum; or (6) who is subject to extradition.

George W. Bush

Notice—Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks

September 12, 2007

Consistent with section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)), I am continuing for 1 year the national emergency I declared on September 14, 2001, in Proclamation 7463, with respect to the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, New York, the Pentagon, and aboard United Airlines flight 93, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the United States.

Because the terrorist threat continues, the national emergency declared on September 14, 2001, last extended on September 5, 2006, and the powers and authorities adopted to deal with that emergency, must continue in effect beyond September 14, 2007. Therefore, I am continuing in effect for an additional year the national emergency I declared on September 14, 2001, with respect to the terrorist threat.

This notice shall be published in the *Federal Register* and transmitted to the Congress.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 1:20 p.m., September 12, 2007]

NOTE: This notice was published in the *Federal Register* on September 13.

Message to the Congress on Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Certain Terrorist Attacks

September 12, 2007

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1622(d), provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. Consistent with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* the enclosed notice, stating that the emergency declared with respect to the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, is to continue in effect for an additional year.

The terrorist threat that led to the declaration on September 14, 2001, of a national emergency continues. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect after September 14, 2007, the national emergency with respect to the terrorist threat.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 12, 2007.

Address to the Nation on the War on Terror in Iraq

September 13, 2007

Good evening. In the life of all free nations, there come moments that decide the direction of a country and reveal the character of its people. We are now at such a moment.

In Iraq, an ally of the United States is fighting for its survival. Terrorists and extremists who are at war with us around the

world are seeking to topple Iraq's Government, dominate the region, and attack us here at home. If Iraq's young democracy can turn back these enemies, it will mean a more hopeful Middle East and a more secure America. This ally has placed its trust in the United States. And tonight, our moral and strategic imperatives are one: We must help Iraq defeat those who threaten its future and also threaten ours.

Eight months ago, we adopted a new strategy to meet that objective, including a surge in U.S. forces that reached full strength in June. This week, General David Petraeus and Ambassador Ryan Crocker testified before Congress about how that strategy is progressing. In their testimony, these men made clear that our challenge in Iraq is formidable. Yet they concluded that conditions in Iraq are improving; that we are seizing the initiative from the enemy; and that the troop surge is working.

The premise of our strategy is that securing the Iraqi population is the foundation for all other progress. For Iraqis to bridge sectarian divides, they need to feel safe in their homes and neighborhoods. For lasting reconciliation to take root, Iraqis must feel confident that they do not need sectarian gangs for security. The goal of the surge is to provide that security and to help prepare Iraqi forces to maintain it. As I will explain tonight, our success in meeting these objectives now allows us to begin bringing some of our troops home.

Since the surge was announced in January, it has moved through several phases. First was the flow of additional troops into Iraq, especially Baghdad and Anbar Province. Once these forces were in place, our commanders launched a series of offensive operations to drive terrorists and militias out of their strongholds. And finally, in areas that have been cleared, we are surging diplomatic and civilian resources to ensure that military progress is quickly followed up with real improvements in daily life.

Anbar Province is a good example of how our strategy is working. Last year, an intelligence report concluded that Anbar had been lost to Al Qaida. Some cited this report as evidence that we had failed in Iraq and should cut our losses and pull out. Instead,

we kept the pressure on the terrorists. The local people were suffering under the Taliban-like rule of Al Qaida, and they were sick of it. So they asked us for help.

To take advantage of this opportunity, I sent an additional 4,000 marines to Anbar as part of the surge. Together, local sheiks, Iraqi forces, and coalition troops drove the terrorists from the capital of Ramadi and other population centers. Today, a city where Al Qaida once planted its flag is beginning to return to normal. Anbar citizens who once feared beheading for talking to an American or Iraqi soldier now come forward to tell us where the terrorists are hiding. Young Sunnis who once joined the insurgency are now joining the army and police. And with the help of our Provincial Reconstruction Teams, new jobs are being created and local governments are meeting again.

These developments do not often make the headlines, but they do make a difference. During my visit to Anbar on Labor Day, local Sunni leaders thanked me for America's support. They pledged they would never allow Al Qaida to return. And they told me they now see a place for their people in a democratic Iraq. The Sunni Governor of Anbar Province put it this way: "Our tomorrow starts today."

The changes in Anbar show all Iraqis what becomes possible when extremists are driven out. They show Al Qaida that it cannot count on popular support, even in a Province its leaders once declared their home base. And they show the world that ordinary people in the Middle East want the same things for their children that we want for ours, a decent life and a peaceful future.

In Anbar, the enemy remains active and deadly. Earlier today, one of the brave tribal sheiks who helped lead the revolt against Al Qaida was murdered. In response, a fellow Sunni leader declared, "We are determined to strike back and continue our work." And as they do, they can count on the continued support of the United States.

Throughout Iraq, too many citizens are being killed by terrorists and death squads. And for most Iraqis, the quality of life is far from where it should be. Yet General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker report

that the success in Anbar is beginning to be replicated in other parts of the country.

One year ago, much of Baghdad was under siege. Schools were closed; markets were shuttered; and sectarian violence was spiraling out of control. Today, most of Baghdad's neighborhoods are being patrolled by coalition and Iraqi forces who live among the people they protect. Many schools and markets are reopening. Citizens are coming forward with vital intelligence. Sectarian killings are down, and ordinary life is beginning to return.

One year ago, much of Diyala Province was a sanctuary for Al Qaida and other extremist groups, and its capital of Baqubah was emerging as an Al Qaida stronghold. Today, Baqubah is cleared. Diyala Province is the site of a growing, popular uprising against the extremists. And some local tribes are working alongside coalition and Iraqi forces to clear out the enemy and reclaim their communities.

One year ago, Shi'a extremists and Iranian-backed militants were gaining strength and targeting Sunnis for assassination. Today, these groups are being broken up, and many of their leaders are being captured or killed.

These gains are a tribute to our military; they are a tribute to the courage of the Iraqi security forces; and they are the tribute to an Iraqi Government that has decided to take on the extremists.

Now the Iraqi Government must bring the same determination to achieving reconciliation. This is an enormous undertaking after more than three decades of tyranny and division. The Government has not met its own legislative benchmarks, and in my meetings with Iraqi leaders, I have made it clear that they must.

Yet Iraq's national leaders are getting some things done. For example, they have passed a budget. They're sharing oil revenues with the Provinces. They're allowing former Ba'athists to rejoin Iraq's military or receive Government pensions. Local reconciliation is taking place. The key now is to link this progress in the Provinces to progress in Baghdad. As local politics change, so will national politics.

Our troops in Iraq are performing brilliantly. Along with the Iraqi forces, they have

captured or killed an average of more than 1,500 enemy fighters per month since January. Yet ultimately, the way forward depends on the ability of Iraqis to maintain security gains. According to General Petraeus and a panel chaired by retired General Jim Jones, the Iraqi Army is becoming more capable—although there is still a great deal of work to be done to improve the National Police. Iraqi forces are receiving increased cooperation from local populations, and this is improving their ability to hold areas that have been cleared.

Because of this success, General Petraeus believes we have now reached the point where we can maintain our security gains with fewer American forces. He has recommended that we not replace about 2,200 marines scheduled to leave Anbar Province later this month. In addition, he says it will soon be possible to bring home an Army combat brigade, for a total force reduction of 5,700 troops by Christmas. And he expects that by July, we will be able to reduce our troop levels in Iraq from 20 combat brigades to 15.

General Petraeus also recommends that in December, we begin transitioning to the next phase of our strategy in Iraq. As terrorists are defeated, civil society takes root, and the Iraqis assume more control over their own security, our mission in Iraq will evolve. Over time, our troops will shift from leading operations to partnering with Iraqi forces and, eventually, to overwatching those forces. As this transition in our mission takes place, our troops will focus on a more limited set of tasks, including counterterrorism operations and training, equipping, and supporting Iraqi forces.

I have consulted with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, other members of my national security team, Iraqi officials, and leaders of both parties in Congress. I have benefited from their advice, and I have accepted General Petraeus's recommendations. I have directed General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker to update their joint campaign plan for Iraq so we can adjust our military and civilian resources accordingly. I have also directed them to deliver another report to Congress in March. At that time, they will provide a fresh assessment of the situation in Iraq and

of the troop levels and resources we need to meet our national security objectives.

The principle guiding my decisions on troop levels in Iraq is “return on success.” The more successful we are, the more American troops can return home. And in all we do, I will ensure that our commanders on the ground have the troops and flexibility they need to defeat the enemy.

Americans want our country to be safe and our troops to begin coming home from Iraq. Yet those of us who believe success in Iraq is essential to our security and those who believe we should begin bringing our troops home have been at odds. Now, because of the measure of success we are seeing in Iraq, we can begin seeing troops come home. The way forward I have described tonight makes it possible, for the first time in years, for people who have been on opposite sides of this difficult debate to come together.

This vision for a reduced American presence also has the support of Iraqi leaders from all communities. At the same time, they understand that their success will require U.S. political, economic, and security engagement that extends beyond my Presidency. These Iraqi leaders have asked for an enduring relationship with America. And we are ready to begin building that relationship in a way that protects our interests in the region and requires many fewer American troops.

The success of a free Iraq is critical to the security of the United States. A free Iraq will deny Al Qaida a safe haven. A free Iraq will counter the destructive ambitions of Iran. A free Iraq will marginalize extremists, unleash the talent of its people, and be an anchor of stability in the region. A free Iraq will set an example for people across the Middle East. A free Iraq will be our partner in the fight against terror—and that will make us safer here at home.

Realizing this vision will be difficult, but it is achievable. Our military commanders believe we can succeed. Our diplomats believe we can succeed. And for the safety of future generations of Americans, we must succeed.

If we were to be driven out of Iraq, extremists of all strains would be emboldened. Al Qaida could gain new recruits and new sanctuaries. Iran would benefit from the

chaos and would be encouraged in its efforts to gain nuclear weapons and dominate the region. Extremists could control a key part of the global energy supply. Iraq could face a humanitarian nightmare. Democracy movements would be violently reversed. We would leave our children to face a far more dangerous world. And as we saw on September the 11th, 2001, those dangers can reach our cities and kill our people.

Whatever political party you belong to, whatever your position on Iraq, we should be able to agree that America has a vital interest in preventing chaos and providing hope in the Middle East. We should be able to agree that we must defeat Al Qaida, counter Iran, help the Afghan Government, work for peace in the Holy Land, and strengthen our military so we can prevail in the struggle against terrorists and extremists.

So tonight I want to speak to Members of the United States Congress: Let us come together on a policy of strength in the Middle East. I thank you for providing crucial funds and resources for our military. And I ask you to join me in supporting the recommendations General Petraeus has made and the troop levels he has asked for.

To the Iraqi people: You have voted for freedom, and now you are liberating your country from terrorists and death squads. You must demand that your leaders make the tough choices needed to achieve reconciliation. As you do, have confidence that America does not abandon our friends, and we will not abandon you.

To Iraq’s neighbors who seek peace: The violent extremists who target Iraq are also targeting you. The best way to secure your interests and protect your own people is to stand with the people of Iraq. That means using your economic and diplomatic leverage to strengthen the Government in Baghdad. And it means the efforts by Iran and Syria to undermine that Government must end.

To the international community: The success of a free Iraq matters to every civilized nation. We thank the 36 nations who have troops on the ground in Iraq and the many others who are helping that young democracy. We encourage all nations to help by implementing the International Compact to revitalize Iraq’s economy, by participating in

the Neighbors Conferences to boost cooperation and overcome differences in the region, and by supporting the new and expanded mission of the United Nations in Iraq.

To our military personnel, intelligence officers, diplomats, and civilians on the frontlines in Iraq: You have done everything America has asked of you. And the progress I have reported tonight is in large part because of your courage and hard effort. You are serving far from home, and our Nation is grateful for your sacrifices and the sacrifices of your families.

Earlier this year, I received an e-mail from the family of Army Specialist Brandon Stout of Michigan. Brandon volunteered for the National Guard and was killed while serving in Baghdad. His family has suffered greatly. Yet in their sorrow, they see larger purpose. His wife, Audrey, says that Brandon felt called to serve and knew what he was fighting for. And his parents, Tracy and Jeff, wrote me this: "We believe this is a war of good and evil and we must win even if it cost the life of our own son. Freedom is not free."

This country is blessed to have Americans like Brandon Stout, who make extraordinary sacrifices to keep us safe from harm. They are doing so in a fight that is just and right and necessary. And now it falls to us to finish the work they have begun.

Some say the gains we are making in Iraq come too late. They are mistaken. It is never too late to deal a blow to Al Qaida. It is never too late to advance freedom. And it is never too late to support our troops in a fight they can win.

Good night, and God bless America.

NOTE: The President spoke at 9:01 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq; Governor Maamun Sami Rashid, Al Anbar Province, Iraq; Abdul Sattar Bezia al-Rishawi, leader, Anbar Salvation Council, who was killed in Al Anbar Province on September 13; Jubeir Rashid, member, Anbar Salvation Council; and Gen. James L. Jones, USMC (Ret.), chairman, Independent Commission on the Security Forces in Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Memorandum on Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

September 13, 2007

Presidential Determination No. 2007–32

Memorandum for the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury

Subject: Continuation of the Exercise of Certain Authorities Under the Trading With the Enemy Act

Under section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223 (91 Stat. 1625; 50 U.S.C. App. 5(b) note), and a previous determination on September 13, 2006 (71 *Fed. Reg.* 54399), the exercise of certain authorities under the Trading With the Enemy Act is scheduled to terminate on September 14, 2007.

I hereby determine that the continuation for 1 year of the exercise of those authorities with respect to the applicable countries is in the national interest of the United States.

Therefore, consistent with the authority vested in me by section 101(b) of Public Law 95–223, I continue for 1 year, until September 14, 2008, the exercise of those authorities with respect to countries affected by:

- (1) the Foreign Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 500;
- (2) the Transaction Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 505; and
- (3) the Cuban Assets Control Regulations, 31 C.F.R. part 515.

The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to publish this determination in the *Federal Register*.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 10:43 a.m., September 17, 2007]

NOTE: This memorandum was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 14, and it will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 18.

**Remarks Following a Luncheon With
Military Personnel at Marine Corps
Base Quantico, Virginia**

September 14, 2007

It's my honor to come to Quantico to speak to our general officers—our officers and sergeants who train young lieutenants. And I had a chance to speak to some of the lieutenants. First of all, my first impression is, it's an amazing country where people volunteer in the face of danger. A lot of these lieutenant—Marine lieutenants fully understand the nature of the world in which we live. And they're willing to serve. They're willing to serve to protect and defend this country, and they're willing to serve to help shape the conditions so that the world is more peaceful.

I told them about my speech last night. I told them that I'd listened very carefully to the recommendations of the military, in particular General Petraeus, and that the plan I announced was that we're making enough—based upon the fact—we're making enough success in Iraq that we can begin bringing some troops home; that I told the American people last night that we've got what's called “return on success.” I also told them that our commanders will have the flexibility and the troops needed to achieve the mission, which is an ally in this war on terror and a stable country that can self govern, a democracy in the heart of the Middle East.

I made it clear that the sacrifices that they and their families were going to make were necessary for the short-term and long-term security of the country; that we'd rather defeat the enemy overseas than have to face them here; that we fully understand—or I fully understand that if we were to be driven out of Iraq that the Middle East could be in chaos, and chaos would embolden Sunni extremists like Al Qaida, and chaos would embolden Iran; and that it's in our interests that we help Iraq succeed—it's not only in the interest—our interests, but it's also in the Iraqis' interests.

I made it clear to them that there's a lot of courage in Iraq. These Iraqis are in the fight. But I also made it clear to them that we expect the Iraqi Government to enhance national reconciliation through the passage

of law. I told them that I was able to give the speech because of the progress being made. I hope the American people listened very carefully to what our commanders and Ambassador Crocker had to say. They're there; they understand the progress that's being made.

I also made it clear that now's the chance for us to come together as a nation; that some of us who believe security was paramount were on opposite sides of a debate, where people said, “We just simply need to bring our troops home.” Well, now we've got security in the right direction, and we are bringing our troops home. And I call upon the United States Congress to listen very carefully to what General Petraeus and Ambassador Crocker reported and support the troop levels that these two men think are necessary to achieve our objective. I also expect the Congress to support our men and women in uniform and their families and those who have worn the uniform.

And so it's a great honor to be out here to speak with an incredible group of men and women. It's my honor to be their Commander in Chief.

Thank you for your time.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:43 p.m. In his remarks, he referred to Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

**Statement on Signing the Honest
Leadership and Open Government
Act of 2007**

September 14, 2007

Today I signed into law S. 1, the “Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.” This bill represents some progress towards ethics, lobbying, and earmark reform, all of which I strongly support. Strengthening the ethical standards that govern lobbying activities and beginning to address meaningful earmark reform are necessary steps to provide the public with a more transparent law-making process. The essence of successful ethics reform is not laws and restrictions, but full disclosure. The legislation includes minimal improvements in the area of disclosure, both for lobbying and earmarks. But there

is still more to be done, and I will work with the Congress to improve upon this legislation.

For example, the bill holds Members of the Senate and Executive Branch employees to a much higher standard of conduct than Members of the House. The specific bill language is confusing, and I believe these increased restrictions would have a negative impact on recruitment and retention of Federal employees. I urge the Congress to make these standards more uniform and less confusing and to do so in a way that will not discourage public service.

In addition, this bill would have the effect of unreasonably burdening sitting President's and Vice President's reelection campaigns. I look forward to working with Congress to amend these provisions to provide a reasonable process for allocating the cost of Presidential and Vice Presidential campaign travel that is consistent with security needs.

I am pleased that the Congress has begun to make progress in bringing greater transparency to the earmarking process. However, this bill falls far short of the reform that American taxpayers deserve. I am concerned that there are potential loopholes in some of the earmark reforms included in this bill that would allow earmarks to escape sufficient scrutiny. This legislation also does not address other earmark reforms I have called on Congress to implement, such as ending the practice of putting earmarks in report language.

I thank members of both parties who worked on this legislation and look forward to working with the Congress to further advance ethics, lobbying, and earmark reform.

NOTE: S. 1, approved September 14, was assigned Public Law 110–81.

**Message to the Congress
Transmitting the Benchmark
Assessment Report**
September 14, 2007

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with section 1314 of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (Public Law 110–28) (the

“Act”), attached is a report that assesses the status of each of the 18 Iraqi benchmarks contained in the Act and declares whether satisfactory progress toward meeting these benchmarks is, or is not, being achieved.

The second of two reports submitted consistent with the Act, it has been prepared in consultation with the Secretaries of State and Defense; the Commander, Multi-National Force—Iraq; the United States Ambassador to Iraq; and the Commander, United States Central Command.

George W. Bush

The White House,
September 14, 2007.

**Digest of Other
White House Announcements**

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 8

In the morning, at the InterContinental Sydney in Sydney, Australia, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Club InterContinental Lounge of the InterContinental Sydney, he had a working breakfast with Prime Minister John Howard of Australia and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to the Sydney Opera House, where, in the Concert Hall Southern Foyer, he participated in an official welcome with Prime Minister Howard. Then, in the Utzon Room, he participated in the APEC Leaders Dialogue with the APEC Business Advisory Council.

In the afternoon, the President participated in a photo opportunity with APEC leaders. Then, at the Guillaume at Bennelong Restaurant, he had lunch with APEC leaders. Later, he participated in the APEC Leaders official photograph.

Later in the afternoon, in The Studio, the President participated in APEC Leaders Retreat I.

In the evening, in the Concert Hall, the President attended a cultural performance. Later, on the Granite level of the Concert Hall Northern Foyer, he viewed a fireworks display and the Parade of Tall Ships. He then participated in the APEC Official Leaders dinner.

Later in the evening, the President traveled to Hickam Air Force Base, HI, crossing the international dateline and arriving in the morning, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Caroline Tom. In the afternoon, he traveled to Naval Station Pearl Harbor, where, in the dining room of the Admiral's residence, he had lunch with military commanders. He then returned to Washington, DC, arriving the following morning.

The President declared a major disaster in North Dakota and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and a tornado from August 26–27.

September 10

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a video teleconference with Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki of Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael O. Leavitt to discuss the initial report by the Interagency Working Group on Import Safety.

September 11

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, at St. John's Episcopal Church, he attended a service of prayer and remembrance to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Then, at 8:46 a.m., on the South Lawn, he and Mrs. Bush participated in a moment of silence to honor the anniversary of the attacks.

The President announced that he has named Henry C. Lozano as Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps.

September 12

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Family Theater, he participated in a speech preparation

session for his September 13 address to the nation.

In the afternoon, in the Family Theater, the President participated in a speech preparation session for his September 13 address to the Nation.

The President announced that he has nominated Daniel V. Speckhard to be Ambassador to Greece.

The President announced that he has nominated Thomas F. Stephenson to be Ambassador to Portugal.

The President announced that he has nominated William H. Frist and Kenneth Francis Hackett to be members of the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The President announced that he has nominated William Delahunt, George E. Pataki, and Ted Poe to be U.S. Representatives to the 62d Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President announced that he has nominated Kelly G. Knight and Rodger D. Young to be Alternate U.S. Representatives to the 62d Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Judith Ann Eisenberg; David Girard-diCarlo; C. Michael Kojanian; Donna Garff Marriott; William C. Powers; and Joseph E. Robert, Jr.

September 13

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he participated in a photo opportunity with the 2007 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award recipients.

September 14

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to Marine Corps Base Quantico in Quantico, VA.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. He then traveled to Camp David, MD.

The President declared a major disaster in Iowa and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding from August 17–September 5.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted September 12

William Delahunt, of Massachusetts, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

William H. Frist, of Tennessee, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of 3 years, vice Christine Todd Whitman, resigned.

Kenneth Francis Hackett, of Maryland, to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of 2 years (reappointment).

Kelly G. Knight, of Kentucky, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

George E. Pataki, of New York, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Ted Poe, of Texas, to be a Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Daniel V. Speckhard, of Wisconsin, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Greece.

Thomas F. Stephenson, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United

States of America to the Portuguese Republic.

Rodger D. Young, of Michigan, to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sixty-second Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations.

Checklist of White House Press Releases

The following list contains releases of the Office of the Press Secretary that are neither printed as items nor covered by entries in the Digest of Other White House Announcements.

Released September 8

Transcript of a press briefing by Deputy Press Secretary Dana Perino, Deputy National Security Adviser Jim Jeffrey, Deputy National Security Adviser for International Economic Affairs Dan Price, and Council of Environmental Quality Chairman Jim Connaughton on APEC meetings

Statement by the Deputy Press Secretary on disaster assistance to North Dakota

Fact sheet: More Than 8.2 Million Jobs Created Since August 2003

Released September 9

Fact sheet: Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) 2007

Released September 10

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Transcript of a press briefing by Health and Human Services Secretary Michael O. Leavitt and National Economic Council Director Allan B. Hubbard on import safety

Released September 11

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Fact sheet: The Sixth Anniversary of 9/11: Remembering Lives Lost and Heroic Sacrifices Made

Released September 12

Transcript of a press briefing by Press Secretary Tony Snow

Released September 13

Transcript of a press briefing by senior administration officials on the President's address to the Nation on the war on terror in Iraq

Fact sheet: "Return on Success" Guiding Principle for Troop Levels in Iraq

Excerpts of the President's address to the Nation on the war on terror in Iraq

Advance text of the President's address to the Nation on the war on terror in Iraq

Released September 14

Statement by the Press Secretary on disaster assistance to Iowa

**Acts Approved
by the President**

Approved September 14

S. 1 / Public Law 110–81
Honest Leadership and Open Government
Act of 2007